## 10 DOWNING STREET

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FILE TITLE:  ILLNESS OF KING HUSSEIN				SERIES			
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PART BEGINS:	PART ENDS:	BER '	1992.	CAB ON	NE:		<b>J</b>
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**TOP SECRET** 

# **PART**

# CLOSED

# The National Archives

DEPARTMENT/SERIES  PREM 19  PIECE/ITEM 3837  (one piece/item number)	Date and sign		
Extract details:  Minute from Braithwaite to Wau  dated 21 October 1992			
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Use the card for one piece or for each extract removed from a different place within a piece.

Enter the department and series, eg. HO 405, J 82.

Enter the piece and item references, . eg. 28, 1079, 84/1, 107/3

Enter extract details if it is an extract rather than a whole piece. This should be an indication of what the extract is, eg. Folio 28, Indictment 840079, E107, Letter dated 22/11/1995. Do not enter details of why the extract is sensitive.

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25 JUN 1991/1953

ROYAL-PALACE-AMMAN 49 22/6 1500 PARAMP

PRIME MINISTER'S

PERSONAL MESSAGE

CORIAL NO. TITTE 91

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE JOHN MAJOR MP, PRIME MINISTER OF GREAT BRITAIN LONDON SW1A 2AA SUBJECT MASTER' OPS

) a PS/Fis ) Pro Marote (2)

I WAS DEEPLY TOUCHED BY YOUR KIND MESSAGE OF GOOD WISHES DURING MY RECENT ILLNESS, AND I TAKE GREAT PLEASURE IN EXPRESSING TO YOU MY HIGH APPRECIATION AS WELL AS MY WARMEST PERSONAL REGARDS HUSSEIN I

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#### THE TELEMESSAGE SERVICE

- -A service of British Telecommunications plc.
- —Telemessages received by British Telecom before 10pm (7pm on Sundays) are normally delivered by first class post on the next working day.

#### TO SEND A TELEMESSAGE

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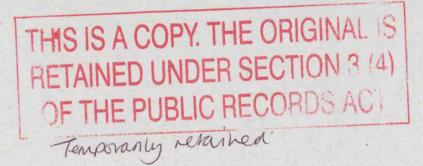
A: HASEN 10 DOWNING STREET LONDON SWIA 2AA From the Private Secretary 13 June 1991 KING HUSSEIN'S ILLNESS Thank you for your letter of 13 June enclosing a message from the Prime Minister to King Hussein of Jordan. I suggest the following revision of your text: "Your Majesty, I was concerned to hear of your admission to hospital. I was relieved to hear that your condition is now stable. Our thoughts are with you. I send you my warmest best wishes and trust that you will soon be restored to full health. Yours sincerely, JOHN MAJOR." On this basis, the message can issue. (J. S. WALL) C.N.R. Prentice, Esq., Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

Foreign & Commonwealth Office

13 June 1991

London SW1A 2AH

Dear Stephen,



#### King Hussein's Illness

You will have seen Amman telnos 469 and 472 of 11 and 12 June (further copies enclosed) reporting that King Hussein has been admitted to hospital with heart palpitations. Our Embassy in Amman have this morning confirmed that, while there is no serious cause for concern at the moment, he is still in hospital.

We therefore recommend that the Prime Minister send a short message. I enclose a draft telegram.

In view of our recent reservations about Jordan's position during the Gulf crisis, the message makes no commitments,

We are also alerting Buckingham Palace to the King's illness.

Yours ever, Christopher Prantice.

(C N R Prentice) Private Secretary

Stephen Wall Esq CMG LVO 10 Downing Street

RESTRICTED

FM AMMAN

TO DESKBY 111400Z FC0

TELNO 469

OF 111255Z JUNE 91

AND TO PRIORITY TEL AVIV, JERUSALEM, CAIRO, DAMASCUS, RIYADH

KING HUSSEIN: HOSPITALISATION

- 1. THE LOCAL RADIO HAS JUST BEGUN REPORTING THAT KING HUSSEIN HAS BEEN ADMITTED TO THE KING HUSSEIN MEDICAL CENTRE WITH HEART PALPITATIONS. HIS CONDITION IS DESCRIBED AS STABLE.
- 2. THE KING HAS HAD A HEAVY LOAD OF CEREMONIAL DUTIES LATELY, SHAKING HANDS WITH OVER 2,500 PEOPLE ON EACH OF TWO DAYS RUNNING. WE UNDERSTAND HE MADE AN UNANNOUNCED VISIT TO HOSPITAL FOR A CHECK UP WHEN HE SHOWED SIGNS OF STRAIN SHORTLY AFTER MR BAKER'S LAST VISIT.

EYERS

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PAGE 1 RESTRICTED CONFIDENTIAL

FM AMMAN

TO DESKBY 121330Z FC0

TELNO 472

OF 121043Z JUN 91

AND TO PRIORITY TEL AVIV, JERUSALEM, CAIRO, DAMASCUS, RIYADH

MY TELNO 469: KING HUSSEIN'S HEALTH

- 1. IN THE COURSE OF A COURTESY CALL I PAID TODAY ON THE JORDANIAN PRIME MINISTER, BADRAN TOLD ME THAT THE KING'S PROBLEM WAS AN ATRIAL FIBRILLATION WHICH HAD STARTED ON THE EVENING OF 10 JUNE. IT HAD BEEN BROUGHT ON BY EXHAUSTION. HE HAD IN FACT SHAKEN HANDS WITH 7000 WELL-WISHERS IN THREE DAYS (IN ADDITION TO ARMY DAY AND THE CEREMONY MARKING THE RATIFICATION OF THE NATIONAL CHARTER HE HAD RECEIVED A VERY LARGE NUMBER OF ARMY AND TRIBAL REPRESENTATIVES ON 8 JUNE). BADRAN SAID THAT THE PROBLEM COULD BE BROUGHT ON BY TIREDNESS, SMOKING, COFFEE OR STRESS. IN RECENT WEEKS THE KING HAD BEEN AFFECTED BY ALL FOUR. BUT HE WAS GETTING BETTER NOW. HIS PRESS SPOKESMAN TOLD REUTERS TODAY THAT HE WOULD BE OUT OF HOSPITAL WITHIN 24-48 HOURS.
- 2. THE KING GAVE A TELEPHONE INTERVIEW YESTERDAY WHICH WAS BROADCAST ON RADIO AND TELEVISION, PRESUMABLY TO PROVIDE REASSURANCE. I THOUGHT HIS VOICE FAR LESS STRONG AND CONFIDENT THAN USUAL: HE DID NOT SOUND IN GOOD FORM.
- 3. I HAVE CONVEYED A PERSONAL MESSAGE OF GOOD WISHES TO THE KING BUT I BELIEVE THAT IT WOULD BE VERY WELL RECEIVED IF I COULD CONVEY ONE ON INSTRUCTIONS FROM LONDON (TELECON BUCKNELL/ARCHER, NENAD). YOU MAY THINK THAT IT WOULD BE MOST APPROPRIATE FOR A MESSAGE TO COME EITHER FROM THE PRIME MINISTER OR FROM HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN. I WOULD SEE ADVANTAGE IN A MESSAGE FROM THE QUEEN, ESPECIALLY IF WE HAVE TO BE DISOBLIGING IN OTHER CONNECTIONS (MY TELNO 468).

EYERS

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PAGE 2 CONFIDENTIAL

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TO DESKBY AMMAN

TELNO

OF 111230Z JUNE 91

INFO IMMEDIATE TEL AVIV, JERUSALEM, CAIRO, DAMASCUS, RIYADH

YOUR TELNO 469: KING HUSSEIN'S ILLNESS

1. Please arrange for the following message to be passed to King Hussein from the Prime Minister:

BEGINS

Your Majesty,

I was concerned to hear of your admission to hospital. with heart palpitations. I take comfort from reports that your condition is now stable.

Our thoughts are with you, at this time. I send you my warmest best wishes and trust that you will soon be restored to full health, at this critical time in efforts to make progress towards peace in the Middle East.

Yours Sincerely John Major ENDS

Comcen reterence

2. We have also drawn the King's illness to the attention of the Palace, in case The Queen wishes to send any messages.

Catchword

Drafted by (Block capitals)

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TELNO 326
OF 111230Z JUNE 91
INFO IMMEDIATE TEL AVIV

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INFO IMMEDIATE TEL AVIV, DERUSALEM, CAIRO, DAMASCUS, RIYADH

YOUR TELNO 469: KING HUSSEIN'S ILLNESS

1. PLEASE ARRANGE FOR THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE TO BE PASSED TO KING HUSSEIN FROM THE PRIME MINISTER:

BEGINS

YOUR MAJESTY,

I WAS CONCERNED TO HEAR OF YOUR ADMISSION TO HOSPITAL.
I WAS RELIEVED TO HEAR THAT YOUR CONDITION IS NOW STABLE.
OUR THOUGHTS ARE WITH YOU. I SEND YOU MY WARMEST BEST
WISHES AND TRUST THAT YOU WILL SOON BE RESTORED TO
FULL HEALTH.

YOURS SINCERELY JOHN MAJOR ENDS

2. WE HAVE ALSO DRAWN THE KING'S ILLNESS TO THE ATTENTION OF THE PALACE, IN CASE THE QUEEN WISHES TO SEND ANY MESSAGES.

HURD

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PRIME MINISTER'S

PERSONAL MESSAGE

RIAL No. TIGIE 91

SUBJECT

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OPS FILED ON: RESTRICTED FM AMMAN TO DESKBY 111400Z FCO **TELNO 469** OF 111255Z JUNE 91 AND TO PRIORITY TEL AVIV, JERUSALEM, CAIRO, DAMASCUS, RIYADH CANALY

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#### KING HUSSEIN: HOSPITALISATION

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EYERS

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### Foreign and Commonwealth Office

#### London SW1A 2AH

25 January 1984

Year David,

Pa-Bus 26/1

I enclose for your records the original signed text of a message from King Hussein to the Prime Minister, thanking her for the message during his recent illness. The text was relayed by telegram from Amman last week.

Ton ever,

(P F Ricketts)
Private Secretary

David Barclay Esq 10 Downing Street PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE
SERIAL NO. TIOB/84

CC Master OPS

Amman
15 January 1984

I AM DEEPLY GRATEFUL FOR YOUR KIND MESSAGE OF GOOD WISHES DURING MY RECENT ILLNESS, FROM WHICH I AM NOW RECOVERING.

WITH MY WARMEST PERSONAL REGARDS.

HUSSEIN I

The Rt. Honourable Margaret Thatcher
Prime Minister of the United Kingdom
10 Downing Street
London
England

## CC Master OPS (10

N5017082 - 1

13 JAN 1934

## PRIME MINISTER'S

PERSONAL MESSAGE

SERIAL No. 198/84 CONFIDENTIAL

OO AMMAN
OO DAMASCUS
GRS 127
CONFIDENTIAL
FM FCO 121157Z JAN 84
TO IMMEDIATE AMMAN
TELEGRAM NUMBER 23 OF 12

TELEGRAM NUMBER 23 OF 12 JANUARY

INFO IMMEDIATE DAMASCUS FOR SECRETARY OF STATE'S PARTY

YOUR TEL NO.33: KING HUSSEIN (5)

PLEASE PASS FOLLOWING MESSAGE TO KING HUSSEIN FROM THE PRIME MINISTER. WE SHALL NOT (NOT) BE PUBLISHING IT.

BEGINS: I WAS SORRY TO HEAR OF YOUR ILLNESS AND SEND YOU MY BEST WISHES FOR A SPEEDY RECOVERY. AT THIS CRITICAL TIME, WHICH IS SO IMPORTANT FOR JORDAN AND FOR THE PEACE OF THE ENTIRE REGION, I KNOW THAT YOU HAVE BEEN CARRYING A HEAVY BURDEN.

YOU ARE VERY MUCH IN OUR THOUGHTS. WITH WARM PERSONAL REGARDS MARGARET THATCHER ENDS

2. (FOR PRIVATE SECRETARY, DAMASCUS).

SUBJECT TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE'S VIEWS, WE PROPOSE ALSO TO RECOMMEND THAT THE QUEEN SEND A MESSAGE OF SYMPATHY.

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SIR J BULLARD
SIR J LEAHY
MR EGERTON
CABINET OFFICE

1 CONFIDENTIAL file pss

12 January 1984

#### KING HUSSEIN

Thank you for your letter of 11 January. The Prime Minister has approved the message from herself to King Hussein with the addition of the word "very" before "sorry". I should be grateful if you would arrange for its delivery.

BIF

A. J. COLES

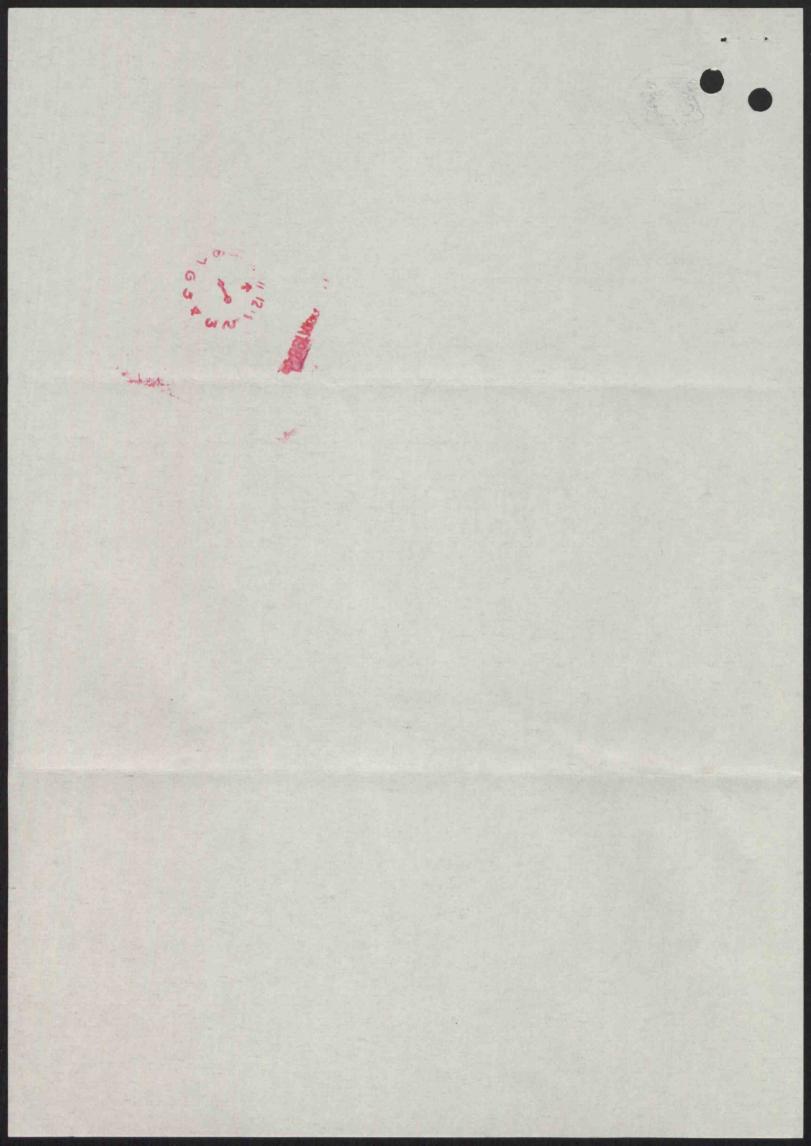
Roger Bone, Esq., Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

88)



DRAFT MESSAGE FROM THE PRIME MINISTER TO KING HUSSEIN

"I was sorry to hear of your illness and send you my best wishes for a speedy recovery. At this critical time, which is so important for Jordan and for the peace of the entire region, I know that you have been carrying a heavy burden. You are very much in our thoughts. With warm personal regards. Margaret Thatcher."





Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

More neserge?

A. + c. /1.

11 January 1984

lew Jha.

You told me this morning that the Prime Minister had it in mind to send King Hussein a personal message wishing him a speedy recovery from his illness. Amman telegram number 33 (copy enclosed) suggests that King Hussein's illness is more serious than Jordanian public announcements imply. In the circumstances, HM Ambassador thinks that King Hussein would warmly appreciate a message.

As the seriousness of the King's illness has not been publicised, we think that the message should be confidential. A draft is enclosed.

We are also considering a recommendation to the Palace that Her Majesty might also send a message.

(R B Bone) Private Secretary

A J Coles Esq 10 Downing Street CONFIDENTIAL

FROM AMMAN 111445Z JAN 84

TO LASH FCO

TELNO 33 OF 11 JAN 84

AND TO INMEDIATE DAMASCUS (FOR PRIVATE SECRETARY TO S OF S).

FOR SIR JOHN LEAHY.

YOUR TELNO 17 (NOT REPEATED): KING HUSSEIN.

1. YOU WILL HAVE SEEN MY SUBSEQUENT TELNO 29 ABOUT THE PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT CONCERNING KING HUSSEIN'S ILLNESS.

2.SINCE THEN II HAVE OBTAINED IN THE STRICTEST CONFIDENCE A FULLER

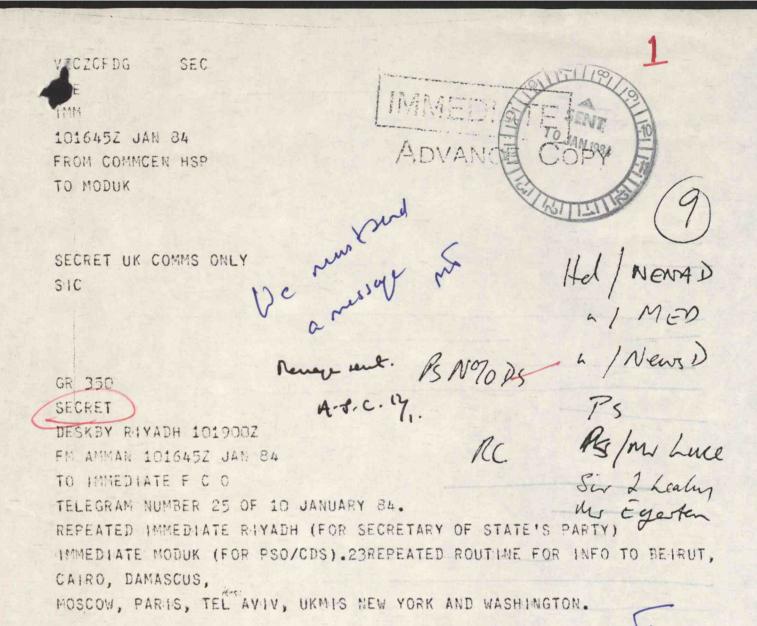
ACCOUNT OF THE KING'S ALLNESS. IT WOULD SEEM TDEAT THE AMERICAN VERSION IN MY TELNO 25 IS MUCH CLOSER TO THE MARK THAN THE PUBLISHED VERSION. THE KING LOST A FULL TWO PINTS OF PLOOD AND HAD TO HAVE IMMEDIATE BLOOD TRANSFUSION ON ADMITTANCE TO HOSPITAL. FOR THE SWEAFING IN OF THE NEW CABINET (MY TELNO 30), HE WAS GOT OUT OF BED, DRESSED AND PUT BACK TO BED IMMEDIATELY. OUF SOURCE

CONFIRMED THAT TWO BRITISH DOCTORS
HAD ARRIVED TO TAKE CARE OF THE KING AND HE SEEMED TO DOUBT
WHETHER THE KING WOULD BE WELL ENOUGH TO GO TO HADIA AT THE END
OF THE MONTH. HE SAID THAT THE KING 'S CONDITION WAS A RESULT
OF SEVERE OVER-STRAIN. HT REMAINS TO BE SEEN WHETHER THE KING
WILL BE ABLE TO OPEN PARLIAMENT ON 16 JANUARY AS NOW RESCHEDULED.
I SHOULD BE GRATEFUL OF THE SANFORMATION COULD BE CLOSELY HELD.
3. IN THE CIRCUMSTANCES I THINK KING HUSSEIN WOULD WARMLY
APPRECIATE A PERSONAL MESSAGE FROM THE PRIME MINISTER AND YOU
MIGHT ALSO, IN VIEW OF THE FORTHCOMING STATE VISIT, WISH TO
CONSIDER WHETHER THE QUEEN SHOULD SEND A MESSAGE TOO. IT IS
OBVIOUSLY IMPORTANT, HOWEVER, THAT THE MESSAGES SHOULD NOT GIVE
ANY INDICATION THAT WE KNOW MORE THAN WAS IN THE PUBLIC ANNOUNCE—MENT.

URWICK

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THIS IS A COPY, THE ORIGINAL IS
RETAINED UNDER SECTION 3 (4)
OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS AC



KING HUSSEIN

1. KING HUSSEIN SUFFERED A HAEMORRHOIDAL EPISODE ON

9 JANUARY AND WAS ADMITTED TO THE KING HUSSEIN MEDICAL

CENTRE AT 2100 HOURS SEMI COLON HPSHAD TO BE TAKEN IN ON

A STRETCHER, AFTER THE LOSS OF A GOOD DEAL OF BLOOD. HE

WAS DUE TO UNDERGO A SURGICAL INTERVENTION THIS AFTERNOON

AND I UNDERSTAND THAT TWO BRITISH DOCTORS WILL BE ARRIVING

IN AMMAN LATER THIS EVENING. NO PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT HAS YET

BEEN MADE, BUT MY US COLLEAGUE (FROM WHOM THIS INFORMATION

COME!) BELIEVES THAT THE KING IS LIKELY TO BE OUT OF ACTION

FOR A PERIOD OF AT LEAST THREE TO FIVE DAYS.

2. VIETS HAD SEN A GOOD DEAL OF THE KING IN THE LAST WEEK, ACCOMPANYING TWO VISITING DELEGATIONS OF US CONGRESSMEN AND SENATORS WHOM THE KING HAD ENTERTAINED TO DINNER ON THE EVENINGS OF 7 AND 8 JANUARY. VIETS HAD NOTED THAT THE KING LOOKED EXTREMELY TIRED AND YELLOW. QUEEN NOOR HAD ALSO

REMARKED TO VIETS THAT THE KING WAS UNDER GREAT STRAIN AND



- J. IT NOW SEEMS LIKELY THAT THE OPENING SESSION OF THE LOWER HOUSE OF THE JORDANIAN PARLIAMENT, WHICH WAS TO HAVE BEEN ADDRESSED BY TH KING ON 12 JANUARY, WILL HAVE TO BE POSTPONED UNLESS THE KING SHOULD DEPUTE SOMEONE ELSE TO READ HIS SPEECH. KING HUSSEAN HAD APPARENTLY ALREADY, PRAOR TO HIS SUDDEN ALLNESS, DECADED THAT HE WOULD SEND CROWN PRINCE HASSAN TO ATTNOTHE ASLAMIC SUMMIT MEETING AT FEZ NEXT WEEK SMI- COLON HE HAD A GOOD EXCUSE NOT TO GO, AS HE WAS REQUIRED TO BE IN AMMAN IN ORDER TO RECEIVE THE FORMAL REPLY OF THE LOWER HOUSE OF PARLIAMENT TO HIS OPENING ADDRESS.
- WHEN HE IS UNDER GREAT STRAIN SEMI COLON THE LAST OCCASION WAS IN MARCH 1983 (MY TELS NOS 122 OF 27 MARCH AND 136 OF 30 MARCH 1983). NO DOUBT THE EVENTS OF RECENT MONTHS, COMBINED WITH THE DIFFICULT DECISIONS HE HAS HAD TO TAKE OVER THE RECALL OF THE LOWER HOUSE OF PARLHAMENT AND THE CHANGE OF GOVERNMENT, HAVE CONTRABUTED TO THE PRESENT ILLNESS. AS FAR AS VIETS KNOWS, THERE HAS BEEN NO RECURRENCE OF HEART TROUBLE ALTHOUGH HE THINSD IT POSSIBLE THAT ONE OF THE TWO DOCTORS SUMMONED FROM BRUTAIN MAY BE A HEART SPECIALIST.

URWICK BT

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